

Quick Strokes

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\$1.25

Now it can be told!

Western Electric Corporation has had six operators at work at Simplified-arranged keyboards for more than a year!

Management is pleased, supervision is satisfied, and the operators are delighted. The location is Western's Eastern Region, at Cockeysville, Md.

The application is well documented in a report by R. V. Janelle, project leader. All the operators are re-trainees, experienced secretaries on the old, "qwerty", arrangement with scores on it at the expert level or near it. The training was terminated when the two students whose attendance was most regular had reached a score that was equal to their old-arrangement score. Hence, their improvement was recorded in accuracy rather than in speed.

In 122½ hours, Operators A and B increased their accuracy by 62.5 % and 14%. Both figures are significant.

The fastest of the class, on the old arrangement, Operator D, with a gross and net of 78 and 72 in words per minute, had all but regained her old-arrangement score in 90 hours. She was following proper instructions and striving for speed first. Where would this talented performer have been in 30½ more hours?

The "slow" operator (only in comparison with her classmates), Operator E, with an old-arrangement gross and net of 56 and 38, had not quite regained her former gross in 73 hours but scored an improvement of 78% in accuracy. This operator, too, has talent - a talent that was not revealed on the old arrangement and never would have been.

The Cockeysville application is on Selectric typewriters, converted by means of a special element and a special part to control impact. Any

or all these operators could transfer to the same company's Engineering Research Center, at Princeton, N. J., without difficulty on account of the arrangement. There, the keyboarded devices are cathode ray tube terminals on which either the traditional or the Simplified arrangement can be used. A nine-stroke signal instructs the computer which way to interpret the input.

A telephone call from R. F. Nickells, then an intern at the center, led, in 1972, to the engagement of P. H. Davis and J. F. White as consultants. In October, 1973, Speedy Keyboard Training Center taught a one-week teachers' course in Simplified typing at the Research Center, under the project leadership of C. A. L. Kagan and L. G. Schear. Robert Wilson, a member of that class, brought the good news to Cockeysville, and the course for operators followed.

Janelle recommends that Western's next application should be made at a location where there is a typing pool. With the recent figures from his report and perhaps from other reports yet to come, it will be easier to make the cost-to-benefit calculations and determine whether it is more economical to retrain high-wage operators who do not devote their full time to the keyboard, or lower-wage operators who do, as in typing pools and word-processing centers.

All the operators in the Cockeysville application commented on their gratification at the new-found relative freedom from anxiety, strain, and fatigue.

Classic study by U.S. Navy is available again

"The printed card number for A Practical Experiment in Simplified Keyboard Retraining and Supplement will be 75-299010. . . (persons) requesting photoduplication of this material should

give a full citation and the printed card number," says Nathan R. Einhorn, chief, Exchange and Gift Division, Library of Congress, in a February, 1975, letter to Belmont Adams, of Scarborough, Me. All participants in the application reported in the above document are anonymous. The year of publication is 1946; the officer who was project leader is deceased, and the operators have either left civil service or been promoted to positions where they do no typing. The classification which once restricted its circulation was a mistake and has been revoked. It is a clear statement of the economies that are effected by retraining.

The Hosie tutorial

A significant paper by J. A. Hosie, "Keyboard Tutorial", discusses scanned arrangement: "Interpretation of . . . key depression can be done in a hardware read-only storage or in a program loadable storage device. If loadable storage is used and is accessible to the user, any keyboard arrangement he may choose is available to him. When read-only storage is used, the keyboard arrangement is determined by the ROS and not the keyboard design."

The author is an alternate member of American National Standards Committee X4, and copies may be obtained from the committee secretary, William

Hanrahan, CBEMA, 1828 "L" St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Hosie also remarks, "A single universal keyboard is impractical." His affiliation is IBM.

Vacancy for an operator

SCM Corp. has a Simplified-arrangement typewriter in its display room in the Pan-Am Building, New York City, at the time of writing, they wanted an operator who can explain and demonstrate. Write to Donald Seaton, SCM Corp., 299 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017.

Subscriptions due

Subscriptions for Vol. III of Quick Strokes, through Winter, 1976, are now due. One year, \$5. The three issues of Vol. II are still available at \$5.

Synergistic Typing

B. Levine, of Levine Books, 1133 Grove St., Irvington, NJ 07111, telephone 371-2526, area code 201, expects to be able to deliver the new edition of the complete learner's manual for Simplified typing, in June, 1975. The author, August Dvorak, has been seriously ill. He is now sufficiently recovered to complete the revisions to make the text and diagrams conform to the American Simplified arrangement which the SCM Corp. is promoting.

Call or write to Mrs. Levine for AS equipment, instructional materials, and training. For QS, address Davis, 267 Ellis Ave., Irvington, NJ 07111.

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